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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application Koichiro Hori et al  
Serial No. Unknown  
Filing Date Unknown  
Title: Device-Steering Shaft Assembly And Endoscope  
Attorney's Docket No.: OKTA-11

Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SUBMITTED  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1)

In accordance with their duty to disclose information which may be material to patentability under 37 CFR 1.97(b)(1) and 1.98, Applicants are submitting herewith (1) two copies of Form PTO-1449 (one page) listing a number of references which are believed to be pertinent to the disclosure of the above-captioned application, and (2) a copy of each of the listed references as follows:

U.S. Patent No. 5,538,497, issued 7/23/96 to K. Hori;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,582,576, issued 12/10/96 to K. Hori et al;  
U.S. Patent No. 5,603,687, issued 2/18/97 to K. Hori et al; and  
U.S. Patent No. 5,662,584, issued 9/2/97 to K. Hori et al.

It is respectfully requested that these documents be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned to the undersigned with the next Official Action.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. If for some reason the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted by the Examiner by telephone in order that any deficiencies may be expeditiously remedied.

OKTA-11

Some of the enclosed documents may have markings thereon. Applicants are not presently aware of the source of those markings, and no significance is meant to be attached thereto.

If any fees are required to be paid, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

 12/19/97

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